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PRAVDA VIEWS CONTROVERSY OVER SOVIET TROOPS IN CUBA

LD102131 Moscow TASS in English 2110 GMT 10 Sep 79 LD

["Who and Why Needed This?"--TASS headline; all quotation marks as received]

[Text] Moscow, September 11, TASS--The newspaper PRAVDA frontpaged today the following editorial article entitled "Who and Why Needed This?":

"A hostile campaign in respect of Cuba, the latest of a whole number, has been started in Washington again in recent days. This time it is being built up around allegations about the appearance in Cuba of "Soviet combat units".

Fanning up the situation and trying to give a semblance of truthfulness to these contentions, the American propaganda media are playing up all sorts of "details" that they themselves have invented. Some say that the Soviet military personnel was brought to Cuba recently, and at night at that in order to ensure the secrecy of its arrival. Others say that it has long been known about the presence of Soviet military personnel in Cuba, but the whole matter is that now this personnel has been given some "new functions". Alarm-spreading statements on this matter were made also by a number of members of the American Congress.

It would seem that the Government of the United States which, of course, knows well the facts related to this matter should have given the necessary explanations with the aim of cutting short the growth of the above-mentioned campaign. Regrettably, however, official representatives of the U.S. Government followed a different course. The statements made by them are of such a nature that they actually, so to say, only add fuel to the fire.

In this connection the need arises of recalling the true state of affairs with Soviet military personnel in Cuba.

For 17 years already there exists in Cuba a training centre at which Soviet military personnel help Cuban servicemen master Soviet military equipment that is used by the Cuban Army. Neither the number nor the functions of the said Soviet personnel have changed throughout all these years. All contentions about the arrival in Cuba of "organised Soviet combat units" are totally groundless.

Soviet military personnel is staying in Cuba at the request of the Cuban Government with the sole aim of helping the strengthening of that country's defence capability. Cuba is compelled to take measures to ensure its defence not only by past experience, but also by the present situation around it that is by far from favourable for the republic's peaceful development, and by intrigues of forces hostile to the Cuban people that have entrenched themselves abroad. The Soviet-Cuban cooperation of many years, dictated by the aims of Cuba's defence, comprises an inalienable right of two sovereign states. Any attempts to restrict this right are in crying contradiction with accepted norms of international intercourse and are absolutely unfounded.

It is also absolutely clear that either by its size or its functions the Soviet military personnel in Cuba does not present and cannot present any threat to the United States, just as to other states.

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The congress was addressed by Yuriy Brezhnev, first deputy minister of foreign trade of the USSR. He said that the further development of international trade and the expansion of economic ties between different countries help ease international tension and strengthen peaceful cooperation. In view of the increased goods traffic in world trade, Yuriy Brezhnev went on, the role of forwarding agents as organisers of the transportation process is growing more important.

FIATA now has 60 full members and over 1,000 associated members from 130 countries. The federation's activities are aimed at improving the standard of forwarding agent services in all continents.

In the Soviet Union it is Soyuzvneshttrans Organisation that is concerned with foreign trade transport services. In his statement at the opening meeting of the congress Vasilii Zhinkin, general director of Soyuzvneshttrans, stressed that Soyuzvneshttrans is making its contribution to developing international transport connections and to improving forwarding agent services in the USSR in accordance with FIATA's motto which says that the forwarding agent is the architect of transport.

The congress is to last till September 13.

INTERPARLIAMENTARY UNION CONFERENCE TO OPEN IN CARACAS

LD092256 Moscow TASS in English 1920 GMT 9 Sep 79 LD

[Text] Caracas, September 9, TASS--Topical questions of the international situation agitating the progressive public of the whole world were put on the agenda of the 66th Conference of the Interparliamentary Union that opens in Venezuela's capital on September 13. The forum will be attended by representatives of more than 80 member-countries of the organisation, including the Soviet Union, as well as representatives of a number of international organisations. President of the Council of the Interparliamentary Union Thomas Williams of Great Britain and Secretary General of the Union Pio-Carlo Terenzio of Italy said at a press conference here that the conference will consider economic and social problems of peoples, will discuss the task connected with the struggle of progressive mankind for peace, for the relaxation of tensions and for universal and complete disarmament, will outline the ways of the implementation of the United Nations recommendations in the sphere of decolonisation. Among the main items on the agenda are questions of establishing mutual understanding among states and development of wide international cooperation in the interests of all peoples. The participants in the forum will also discuss a number of organisational matters. The conference will admit new states into the Interparliamentary Union and will also elect the union's new leadership.

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Such is the actual state of affairs. It obviously shows the utter groundlessness of the new outcry raised in the United States over Cuba.

The true motivations and directedness of the efforts of those who are fanning up this loud campaign are clearly seen also from the by far not chance selection of the moment for launching it.

Clearly on a signal the American propaganda apparatus began to work intensively precisely at the time when heads of state and government and other high-placed representatives of non-aligned countries, coming out against diktat in international relations, for liquidating the remnants of colonialism and racism, for strengthening peace and international security assembled in Havana for their 6th conference. The plan was simple here--to try to undermine the prestige of Cuba as one of the most active and authoritative member-states of the non-aligned movement.

It is not by chance either that all this outcry is being used by those circles in the United States that are trying to prevent the ratification of the SALT II treaty and in any case to complicate the process of its ratification. ✓

Such is the purpose behind this entire campaign that is hostile to the USSR and Cuba. And those who connive at it and the more so inspire it should be aware of the responsibility they are assuming".

IZVESTIYA'S Barsukov Report

LD101027 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 7 Sep 79 Morning Edition p 4 LD

[Yu. Barsukov report from "The Day Worldwide" roundup by B. Vasilyev: "The United States On the Hill After the Vacation"]

[Text] The U.S. Congress has resumed work after a 1-month recess. IZVESTIYA correspondent Yu. Barsukov reports from Washington:

The senators and congressmen have returned to the capital under the influence of the alarm gripping voters in connection with the acute problems facing the American economy--inflation and the energy crisis. The search for ways of resolving these acute problems will occupy much of the legislators' time and attention. However, as the STAR newspaper notes, they will hardly "propose concrete directions of movement promising the hope of success."

The Washington POST, in an article devoted to Congress' resumption, notes the decision by F. Church, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, to break off the discussion of the SALT II treaty in the committee. Instead, Church has decided to convene a "special session of the committee" on the question of the "presence of Soviet troops on Cuba" which is being fanned by anticommunists. Many senators, including R. Byrd, leader of the Democrats in Senate, regard this decision as essentially an act providing grist for the mill of the opponents of SALT II, who seek to wreck the examination of that most important treaty for the sake of the anti-Soviet campaign which is being artificially fanned in the United States. ✓

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WORLD NETWORK OF BASES, CONTINUED BUILDUP SCORED

Troops at USSR Approaches

LD111049 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 Sep 79 Morning Edition p 4 LD

[V. Matveyev article under the rubric: "On International Topics": "Dangerous Activity"]

[Text] More than 300 major U.S. military bases and over 2,000 smaller ones are still maintained on the territory of about 30 countries, dating back to cold war times when the Pentagon launched into feverish activity to create its overseas bridgeheads with special emphasis on siting them at the approaches to the Soviet Union and other socialist states.

It is no secret that the U.S. military imposed such bases on a number of countries despite the objections of the governments of those countries.

What we are talking about are the large contingents of U.S. Armed Forces located outside the confines of the United States. Throughout these postwar years the total numerical strength of these large contingents has amounted to between one-third and one-fourth of the complement of all the U.S. regular military forces permanently stationed on foreign territories. The largest groupings of these U.S. forces are deployed in the so-called "strategic forward defense zones [predpolye]"--in West Europe and Asia. That is, at the approaches to the USSR and other socialist community states.

The Pentagon is continuing to build up the numerical strength of these forces in the NATO countries. New formations of troops equipped with various arms, including nuclear arms, are being transferred from the United States to West Europe. In a number of NATO countries the deployment of dangerous new types of mass-destruction weapons is being planned.

The Warsaw Pact states have repeatedly pointed out that they oppose the buildup of troops and arms on the territory of other states. The socialist states also consistently advocate the dismantling of military bases on foreign territories.

Also well known are the Soviet proposals to hold talks on the dismantling of foreign military bases in the Indian Ocean region following the conclusion of an agreement among interested states on the "freezing" or "stabilization" of military activity in that region.

Thus, the socialist states, displaying good will, are proposing to the United States and to other Western countries that resolute and far-reaching steps be taken for the purpose of further improving the international climate. But how, one asks oneself, is official Washington reacting to these constructive and peace-loving initiatives?

The Western press is at present full of reports about the plans of the U.S. ruling circles to expand the "military presence" at a number of points and in a number of regions of the world, utilizing for this all kinds of artificial, fraudulent and even provocative pretexts. Details of secret points of the Camp David separate agreements have become public knowledge. In accordance with these points Egypt is to permit "a considerable number of U.S. military specialists and advisers, provisionally put at 5,000 men, to help in the organization and training of the Egyptian Armed Forces." It is clear that such contingents of U.S. "advisers" will mean the creation in the Near East of new U.S. military strongpoints.